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enzyme systems. [Gk. *biōtos*, life; see *bi-*].

bird-dog (*bûrd' dōg'*, -*dōg'*) — *v.* -*dogged*, -*dog-ging*, -*dogs*. — *intr.* To follow a subject of interest, such as a person or trend, with persistent attention. — *tr.* 1. To observe or follow closely; monitor: *bird-dogged the suspect's movements*. 2. To seek out (talent or clients, for example).

bird-er (*bûr'dər*) *n.* 1. A bird watcher. 2. A breeder of birds.

bird-feeder (*bûrd' fēdər*) *n.* 1. A hunter of birds. 2. A feeder of birds.

bird-feed (*bûrd' fēd*) *n.* Birdseed.

bird-foot violet (*bûrd' fōt' vīōlēt*) *n.* Var. of *bird's-foot violet*.

bird-house (*bûrd' hōus*) *n.* 1. A box with one or more small entry holes, made as a nesting place for birds. 2. An aviary.

bird-le (*bûr'dē*) *n.* 1. Informal. A small bird. 2. Sports. a. One stroke under par for a hole in golf. b. See *shuttlecock*. — *tr.v.* -*led*, -*le-ing*. -*les*. Sports. To shoot (a hole in golf) in one stroke under par.

bird-lime (*bûrd' līm'*) *n.* 1. A sticky substance that is smeared on branches or twigs to capture small birds. 2. Something that captures or ensnares. — *tr.v.* -*limed*, -*lim-ing*. -*limes*. 1. To smear with birdlime. 2. To catch with or as if with birdlime.

bird louse *n.* See *biting louse*.

bird-man (*bûrd' mən*) *n.* 1. (also -*mān'*). One, such as an ornithologist, who works with birds. 2. Slang. An aviator.

bird of paradise *n., pl.* birds of paradise. 1. Any of various birds of the family Paradisaeidae, native to New Guinea and adjacent islands and usu. having brilliant plumage and long tail feathers in the male. 2. Any of several southern African herbs of the genus *Strelitzia*, esp. *S. reginae* having orange and blue flowers.

bird of passage *n., pl.* birds of passage. 1. A migratory bird. 2. A person who moves from place to place frequently.

bird of prey *n., pl.* birds of prey. Any of various predatory, carnivorous birds such as the eagle or hawk.

bird pepper *n.* 1. A variety of pepper (*Capsicum annum* var. *glaberrimum*) that includes the wild forms native to the southern United States and from Mexico south to Colombia. 2. The small, pungent fruit of this plant.

bird-seed (*bûrd' sēd'*) *n.* A mixture of various kinds of seeds used for feeding birds.

Birds-eye (*bûrd' zī*). Clarence. 1886–1956. Amer. inventor who received more than 300 patents, most notably for methods of quick-freezing food.

birds-eye (*bûrd' zī*) *n.* 1. A fabric woven with a pattern of small diamonds, each having a dot in the center. 2. The pattern of such a fabric. — *adj.* 1. Marked with a spot or spots resembling a bird's eye or eyes, as the bird's-eye maple. 2. Derived from or as if from an altitude or distance.

birds-eye maple *n.* A form of wood, chiefly of the sugar maple, that is patterned with small rounded figures.

bird's-foot trefoil (*bûrd' fōt'*) *n.* A perennial Old World herb (*Lotus corniculata*) in the pea family, having golden-yellow flowers and clusters of pods arranged like bird claws.

bird's-foot violet also **bird-foot violet** (*bûrd' fōt'*) *n.* An eastern North American violet (*Viola pedata*) having large flowers and leaves shaped somewhat like a bird's foot.

bird's-nest fern (*bûrd' nēst'*) *n.* An Old World tropical fern (*Asplenium nidus*) having leaves resembling a bird's nest.

bird's-nest fungus *n.* Any of various fungi having a cuplike body containing round egglike structures that enclose the spores.

bird watcher or **bird-watch-er** also **bird-watch-er** (*bûrd' wōch'ər*) *n.* A person who observes and identifies birds in their natural surroundings. — *bird watching* *n.*

bi-refr-in-gence (*bī'rē-frīn'jəns*) *n.* The resolution or splitting of a light wave into two unequally reflected waves by an optically anisotropic medium. — *bi'rē-frīn'jənt* *adj.*

bi-reme (*bī'rēm*) *n.* An ancient galley equipped with two tiers of oars on each side. [Lat. *birēmis*: *bi-*, two; see *bi-* + *rēmūs*, oar; see *era-*.]

bi-ret-ta also **be-ret-ta** or **ber-ret-ta** (*bā-rēt'ə*) *n.* A stiff square cap with three or four ridges across the crown, worn esp. by Roman Catholic clergy. [Ital. *berretta* < OProv. *berret*, cap < LLat. *birrus*, hooded cloak, prob. of Celt. orig.]

bi-ri-a-ni (*bī'rī-ā'nē*) *n.* Var. of *biryani*.

bir-k (*bûrk*) *n.* Scots. Birch. [ME *birke* < OE *birce*. See *BIRCH*.]

bir-ken-head (*bûr'kən-hēd'*) *n.* A borough of NW England at the mouth of the Mersey R. near Liverpool. Pop. 341,000.

bird (*bûr'l*) *v.* **birded**, **bird-ing**, **birds**. — *tr.* To cause (a floating log) to spin rapidly by rotating with the feet. — *intr.* 1. To participate in birding. 2. To spin. — *n.* A whirling noise; a hum. [Blend of *bird* + *whirl*.] — *bird'er* *n.*

bird-ing (*bûr'ling*) *n.* A game, esp. among loggers, in which two competitors try to bird a floating log.

Bir-ming-ham (*bûr'mīng-hām*). 1. (also -*əm*). A city of central England NW of London. Pop. 1,022,300. 2. A city of N-central AL NE of Tuscaloosa. Pop. 265,968. 3. A city of SE MI, a suburb of Detroit. Pop. 19,997.

bird (*bûr*) *n.* 1. A whirling sound. 2. Strong forward momentum; driving force. — *intr.v.* **birred**, **bird-ing**, **birrs**. To make a whirling sound. [ME *bir*, favorable wind < ON *byrr*. See *bher-1**.]

bird (*bûr*) *n., pl.* **birr** or **birrs**. See table at currency. [Prob. of Amharic orig.]

birth (*bûrth*) *n.* 1. a. The emergence and separation of offspring from the body of the mother. b. The act or process of bearing young; parturition. c. The circumstances or conditions relating to this event: *a Bostonian by birth*. 2. a. The set of characteristics or circumstances received from one's ancestors; inheritance. b. Origin; extraction: *of humble birth*. c. Noble or high status. 3. A beginning or commencement. See *Syns* at *beginning*. — *tr.v.* **birthed**, **birth-ing**, **births**. Chiefly Southern U.S. 1. To deliver (a baby). 2. To bear (a child). [ME, prob. of Scand. orig. See *bher-1**.]

birth canal *n.* The passageway through which the fetus is expelled during parturition, leading from the uterus through the cervix, vagina, and vulva.

birth certificate *n.* An official record of the date and place of a person's birth, usu. including the names of the parents.

birth control *n.* Limitation or control of the number of children born, as by the use of contraception or other devices.

birth control pill *n.* See *oral contraceptive*.

birth-day (*bûrth'dā*) *n.* 1. The day of one's birth. 2. The anniversary of one's birth.

birthday suit *n.* The state of being nude; nakedness.

birth defect *n.* A physiological or structural abnormality that develops at or before birth and is present at birth, esp. as a result of faulty development, infection, heredity, or injury.

birth-ing (*bûr'thing*) *adj.* Having to do with or used during birth: *a birthing counselor*. — *n.* The act of giving birth.

birth-mark (*bûrth'mārk'*) *n.* A mole or blemish present on the skin from birth; a nevus.

birth pang *n.* 1. One of the repetitive pains occurring in childbirth. Often used in the plural. 2. **birth pangs**. Difficulty or turmoil associated with a development or transition.

birth parent also **birth-par-ent** (*bûrth'pār'ənt*, -*pār'ē*) *n.* A biological parent.

birth-place (*bûrth'plās'*) *n.* The place where someone is born or where something originates.

birth-rate also **birth rate** (*bûrth'rāt'*) *n.* The ratio of total live births to total population in a specified community or area over a specified period of time.

birth-right (*bûrth'rit'*) *n.* 1. A right, possession, or privilege that can be made hereditary. 2. A right, possession, or privilege accorded a first-born.

birth-root (*bûrth'rōōt'*, -*rōōt'*) *n.* See *trillium*.

birth-stone (*bûrth'stōn'*) *n.* A gemstone associated with a month and customarily worn by persons born in that month.

birth-wort (*bûrth'wûrt'*, -*wōrt'*) *n.* Any of several herbs or woody vines of the genus *Aristolochia*, having malodorous flowers with unusual shapes.

bi-ry-a-ni also **bi-ri-a-ni** (*bī'rē-ā'nē*) *n.* An Indian dish containing meat, fish, or vegetables and rice flavored with saffron or turmeric. [Hindi or Urdu.]

bis (*bis*) *adv.* Mus. Again; twice. — *interj.* Used to request an additional performance. [Fr. or Ital., both < Lat. See *dwo-**.]

Bis-cay (*bis'kā*), **Bay of**. An arm of the Atlantic Ocean indenting the W coast of Europe from Brittany in NW France to NW Spain.

Bis-cayne Bay (*bis-kān'*, *bis'kān'*). A narrow inlet of the Atlantic Ocean in SE FL.

bis-cot-ti (*bī-skōt'ō*, *bē-skōt'ō*) *n., pl.* **bis-cot-ti** (*bī-skōt'ē*, *bē-skōt'ē*). A crisp Italian cookie flavored with anise and often containing almonds or filberts. [Ital. < Med.Lat. *bis coctus*, twice cooked. See *ascut*.]

bis-cuit (*bīsk'it*) *n., pl.* -*cuits*. 1. A small cake of shortened bread leavened with baking powder or soda. 2. Chiefly British. a. A thin, crisp cracker. b. A cookie. 3. *Color*. A pale brown. 4. *pl.* **biscuit**. Clay that has been fired once but not glazed. [Middle English *bisquit* < OFr. *biscuit* < Med.Lat. *bis coctus*: Lat. *bis*, twice; see *dwo-** + Lat. *coctus*, p.prt. of *coquere*, to cook; see *pek-**.]

bise (*bēz*) *n.* A cold north wind of the Swiss Alps and nearby regions of France and Italy. [ME < OFr., of Gmc. orig.]

bi-sect (*bī'sēkt'*, *bī-sēkt'*) *v.* -*sect-ed*, -*sect-ing*, -*sects*. — *tr.* To cut or divide into two parts, esp. two equal parts. — *intr.* To split; fork. — **bi-sec'tion** *n.* — **bi-sec'tion-al** *adj.* — **bi-sec'tion-al-ly** *adv.*

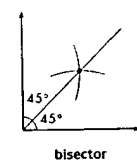
bi-sec-tor (*bī'sēk'tər*, *bī-sēk'tər*) *n.* Something that bisects, esp. a ray that bisects an angle.

bi-ser-rate (*bī-sēr'āt'*) *adj.* 1. Bot. Having serrations that are themselves serrated. 2. Zool. Serrated on both sides.

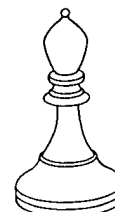
bi-sex-u-al (*bī-sēk'shōō-əl*) *adj.* 1. Of or relating to both sexes. 2. a. Having both male and female reproductive organs; hermaphroditic. b. Bot. Of or relating to a single flower that contains functional staminate and pistillate structures. 3. Of, relating to, or having a sexual orientation to persons of either sex. — *n.* 1. A bisexual organism; a hermaphrodite. 2. A bisexual person. — **bi'sex-u-al'i-ty** (*-āl'i-tē*) *n.* — **bi'sex-u-al-ly** *adv.*

Bish-kek (*bīsh'kēk*, *bēsh'kēk*). Formerly *Frun-ze* (*froōn'zə*). The cap. of Kirghiz, in the N-central part on the Chu R. Pop. 604,000.

bish-op (*bīsh'ap*) *n.* 1. A high-ranking Christian cleric, in modern churches usu. in charge of a diocese. 2. *Games*. A usu. miter-shaped chess piece that can move diagonally across



bisector

bishop
Chess piece

ā pat	oi boy
ā pay	ou out
ār care	oo took
ā father	ōō boot
ē pet	ū cut
ē be	ūr urge
ī pit	th thin
ī pie	th this
ir pier	hw which
ō pot	zh vision
ō toe	ā about
ō paw	item

Stress marks:
' (primary);
' (secondary), as in
dictionary (dīk'shā-nēr'ē)